

MARENGO COUNTY

Honorable Wade Drinkard

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PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Funding
2. Parenting involvement and development of parenting skills
3. Non-School youth activities

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Lack of exercise and general good health

Policy Council Action Steps:

- participate in health fairs
- encourage testing (i.e. weight, blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol)
- work with UAB community partners in assessing needs of south Marengo county

Access to Healthcare

Policy Council Action Steps:

- public awareness through media and public offices of available transportation services
- satellite health offices in South Marengo County

Teen pregnancy/sexually transmitted diseases

Policy Council Action Steps:

- more community and school based programs on prevention
- more access to medical providers (i.e. parish nurses and school nurses)

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Abused and Neglected Children

Policy Council Action Steps:

- parenting classes for families (not necessarily at risk families)
- court appointed anger management for families
- sex abuse prevention/intervention

Additional resources to treat children with mental illness and mental retardation

Policy Council Action Steps:

- provide transportation for consumers in rural areas
- establish mental health fair in conjunction with Health Department to increase public awareness
- provide services/programs for abusing parents and kids

Prevalence of drugs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- public awareness for parents to recognize signs of drug use
- raise awareness of educators to recognize signs of drug use

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Unfunded mandated-State and Federal

Policy Council Action Steps:

- direct contact by children's policy council to state
- review earmarking policies for state and local fund to create flexible policies
- develop lobby group made up from educational individuals to promote education causes to federal and state governments

Inadequate School Funding

Policy Council Action Steps:

- address equity funding issues on statewide basis
- develop committee to research programs in readiness skills, art, health issues, etc.
- review earmarking policy

School safety/violence/drugs

Policy Council Action Steps:

- curriculum for conflict resolution for faculty and staff
- alternative after school conflict resolution
- parenting program

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Lack of Child Care

Policy Council Action Steps:

- educate parents about public, private and faith-based programs
- better screening and training of child care providers
- financial assistance for low-income families
- develop partnership with faith-based programs

Development of parenting skills

Policy Council Action Steps:

- partnering with faith-based programs
- educate parents about parenting skills

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Youth employment

Policy Council Action Steps:

- more career counseling and aptitude assessment
- community center for summer job programs
- mentoring programs

Providing resources/ education for job training

Policy Council Action Steps:

- tutoring/academic counseling and aptitude assessment
- more classes for life skills to help develop a strong work ethic
- participation in Kids and Kin

Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Juvenile Delinquents

Policy Council Action Steps:

- reinstate fatherhood initiative programs
- increase public awareness for need of male mentors
- stiffer penalties/sanctions for truancy

Abused and neglected children

Policy Council Action Steps:

- reinstate health department teen pregnancy program
- develop program to educate teens of social, moral, economic ramifications of teen pregnancy

Policy Recommendation

1. Stop playing political games with Children's Trust Fund money
2. Leave Children's Trust fund money for children and stop using it for unrelated state agencies
3. Continue funding the Alabama Partnership of Children
4. Continue to adequately fund Medicaid and All-Kids

